

San Jose Mercury News

25 CENTS (U.S. ONLY) | PENINSULA/S.F. EDITION | PS
SERVING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1851

WWW.MERCURYNEWS.COM

SEPTEMBER 29, 2004 | WEDNESDAY
THE NEWSPAPER OF SILICON VALLEY

Valley companies make the grade as best workplaces for commuters



▲ As featured on the Business Section front page, September 29, 2004

Intel topped the list of Fortune 500 companies that help reduce traffic and air pollution by providing their employees with subsidized public-transportation programs, telecommuting options and other benefits.

Cisco Systems came in third, and Sun Microsystems tied with Oracle for fifth place, followed by Advanced Micro Devices. Hewlett-Packard was No. 11 and Apple Computer was No. 12 on the list, to be published annually by the EPA. Armonk, N.Y.-based IBM ranked No. 16.

“Seventy-five percent of American workers drive alone to work, a practice that contributes to

significant traffic and air pollution problems,” said Jeff Holmstead, EPA assistant administrator of air and radiation, in a statement.

“Best Workplaces for Commuters companies are helping workers break the drive-alone habit and find less stressful, less costly and more environmentally friendly ways to get to work.”

Silicon Valley is notorious for grid-lock, and many local companies provide benefits such as commuter checks to offset the cost of public transportation.

Intel and its employees have gone a few steps further. For in-

“Seventy-five percent of American workers drive alone to work, a practice that contributes to significant traffic and air pollution problems”

- JEFF HOLMSTEAD,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By Therese Poletti
Mercury News

Seven Silicon Valley companies rank among the best workplaces for commuters, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report being released today.



MERI SIMON-MERCURY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS

Scott Mully of Livermore loads his bike onto Intel’s employee bus. Intel was ranked No. 1 among best workplaces for commuters.



Tony Ryan works on his laptop aboard Intel's special commuter bus, which goes to the Livermore area and back to Santa Clara.

stance, employees who live in the Livermore-Amador Valley area had few public transportation options to get to work in Santa Clara County. So many Intel workers asked the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority for express bus service to Santa Clara that the transit company approached Intel about the idea.

Now about 15 to 20 Intel employees a day take the bus, which makes its first pickup in Livermore and a second stop in Pleasanton. Two Intel employees rotate as the bus drivers. They had to obtain Class B commercial drivers licenses, which they did on their own time. One driver, Ed Bongiorno, sells the tickets at Intel. The cost is partially subsidized by the company.

Cisco, which has 42 buildings on its sprawling San Jose campus, operates a shuttle bus that transports employees to and from buildings. The company said 8,000 of its 14,000 local employees use its "Inter-site" shuttle, which saves workers from getting in and out of their cars all day long.

The company, like many in Silicon



Ed Bongiorno, an Intel employee, also drives Intel's commuter bus. Two Intel employees rotate as the bus drivers.

Valley, also offers employees on-site dry cleaning, cafeterias, child care, dental care and other services to minimize the need to drive.

To encourage carpooling, Cisco provides rides to workers who miss their carpool home, said spokeswoman Robyn Jenkins.

A group of seven Intel employees who lived in San Francisco's Noe Valley neighborhood used a spreadsheet to manage their complex car pool schedule.

Valley offices that made the top 20, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

1. Intel
3. Cisco Systems
5. Sun Microsystems
5. Oracle
7. Advanced Micro Devices
11. Hewlett-Packard
12. Apple Computer
16. IBM

"It started getting pretty sophisticated," said Caroline Pan, who works in corporate marketing at Intel. "We would assign one person a month to handle all the logistics."

Pan said if carpoolers were stuck late in a meeting they would either send e-mails or instant messages

to alert the carpool group.

The carpool disbanded after a few employees left the Noe Valley area or left Intel. But friendships were made and Pan said a smaller carpool group is forming in the neighborhood. Intel assigns carpoolers coveted parking spots near parking garage exits.

Sun Microsystems promotes flexible offices for its employees who want to work closer to home. It has 124 office buildings with 10,500 seats available for full-time employees who want to drop in on occasion. Those employees can also work from home a few days a week.

Contact *Therese Poletti* at tpoletti@mercurynews.com or at (415) 477-2510.

*** This article was also featured in the following online and print media outlets:**

Silicon Valley.com, Charlotte Observer, Miami Herald, Kansas City Star, Philadelphia Inquirer, Biloxi Sun Herald, Lexington Herald Leader, Ledger-Enquirer, Monterey County Herald, Tallahassee Democrat, Brandenton Herald, Pioneer Press, Duluth News Tribune, Macon Telegraph, Grand Forks Herald, San Luis Obispo Tribune, Centre Daily Times, The Witcha Eagle/Kansas.com, Myrtle Beach Sun News, Times Leader